

dialogue with Pakistan is a separate issue and that India is willing to talk with Pakistan on all matters of bilateral concern when Islamabad demonstrates its resolve to end cross border terrorism.

(d) and (e) The Government had welcomed the peace initiative taken by Hizbul-Mujahideen and had invited them to come over-ground for talks and initial contacts were also established with them. However Hizbul-Mujahideen has since withdrawn the cease-fire. The Government will however not deviate from its chosen course of talks with all those in Kashmir who eschew the path of terror and violence and its simultaneous battle against all those who continue to stick to that path.

Construction of Concrete Bunkers along the Border

2541. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are of the view that there is a need to construct concrete bunkers for the people living along border;

(b) if so, whether this would help the people living on border to protect themselves against the constant shelling on civilian population;

(c) if so, whether Government would take necessary steps in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) As intimated by the government of J and K, in some border areas like Karnah, Karian, Machtil, Uri, there is need for construction of bunkers in view of the constant shelling from across the border.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) A sum of Rs. 5 crores has been released to the State Govt. from National Defence Fund for construction of bunkers in border areas.